

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent  
Reception of New Members

**Welcome and Greeting** - Pastor Mark

**Prelude:** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (American Folk Hymn, arr. Cindy Berry - DeeAnn

**Opening Sentences** - Gretta

**Hymn 324:** "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" - DeeAnn et al.

**Opening Prayer** - Gretta

**Anthem:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Isaac Watts, arr. John T. Burke) - Barb/DeeAnn/Choir

**Receiving New Members:** Margery, Glenn, Carol, Aubree, Katie, Nate, Amy - Pastor Mark

**Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts** - Pastor Mark and Betty

*Doxology (Hymn 563) - DeeAnn*

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer** (using debts and debtors) - Pastor Mark

**Old Testament Reading:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 - Rachel

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

**Sermon: "DEALING WITH DIFFICULT TEXTS"** - Pastor Mark

**Hymn 294:** "God Binds Us With a Mighty Cord" - DeeAnn et al.

**Benediction** - Pastor Mark

**Benediction Response Hymn 294 (v. 2):** "God Binds Us With a Mighty Cord" - DeeAnn et al.

In trying times, God's steadfast light shines on a world in need, and leads all people to unite, with healing words and deeds. We yearn to feel the Spirit then, find God in tragedy; thus, strangers transform into friends, in holy unity.

**Greet One Another** - All

Participants: Pastor Mark & DeeAnn McCormick, Barb Fuller, Gretta Delaney, Rachel Gehres, Betty Briggs, Chancel Choir

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Minister: Seeking membership in this church, do you accept the religion of love and service that Jesus taught and lived; to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself; to make the spirit of Christ dominant in your relationships, also recognizing that we all are human; we make mistakes and sometimes we need to be forgiven and to offer forgiveness; do you therefore covenant together with all the members and friends of Mayflower Church to prayerfully promote harmony, faithfulness, and unconditional love, accepting a share in its privileges and duties, insofar as you are able, God being your helper?

*(Those joining will respond: "I do".)*

Mayflower's Response: *(The congregation is invited to rise, and read in unison.)*

**We rejoice with you and joyfully receive you into membership and fellowship. We pledge our Christian love as you have promised us. We humbly pray to God that both you and we may be true to this covenant forever, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### Mayflower Church Covenant

**We are a Christian church on a journey of worship, sacrament, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbors, both within our community and beyond. As God has made covenant with us, we covenant to love, care, and support one another, and to be prayerfully present with each other as we navigate the challenges of life. We celebrate diversity with the unique perspectives, backgrounds, and gifts each individual brings to our community. We seek to provide a safe space for questions, doubts, and exploration, encouraging lifelong quests of learning, growing, and deepening our understanding of scripture and the love of God. We pursue open and honest communication with respect for personal conscience. We commit ourselves to be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures, to further the work of God's kingdom on earth. We affirm this covenant with open hearts and minds, trusting in the grace of God and the love of Christ.**

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1936-1991

Trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1911-

George F. Lockwood, 1946-, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1927-

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1936-1991

Harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1945-1992

Unison

1. Lord, You have come to the lake - shore  
 2. You know so well my pos - ses - sions;  
 3. You need my hands, full of car - ing  
 4. You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans,

look - ing nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones;  
 my boat car - ries no gold and no weap - ons;  
 through my la - bors to give oth - ers rest,  
 ev - er longed for by souls who are wait - ing,

You on - ly asked me to fol - low hum - bly.  
 You will find there my nets and la - bor.  
 and con - stant love that keeps on lov - ing.  
 my lov - ing friend, as thus You call me.

Refrain / Estribillo

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me,  
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos,

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Irregular with Refrain

Text and tune © 1979, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP. Harm. © 1987, Skinner Chávez-Melo

Trans. © 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN)

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

and while smil - ing have spo - ken my  
 son - ri - en - do has di - cho mi

name; now my boat's left  
 nom - bre, en la a - re - na

on the shore-line be - hind me; by Your  
 he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek oth - er seas.  
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

1. Tú has venido a la orilla,  
 no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos,  
 tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.

Estribillo

3. Tú necesitas mis manos,  
 mi cansancio que a otros descanse,  
 amor que quiera seguir amando.

Estribillo

2. Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:  
 en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,  
 tan sólo redes y mi trabajo.

Estribillo

4. Tú, pescador de otros lagos,  
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan,  
 amigo bueno, que así me llamas.

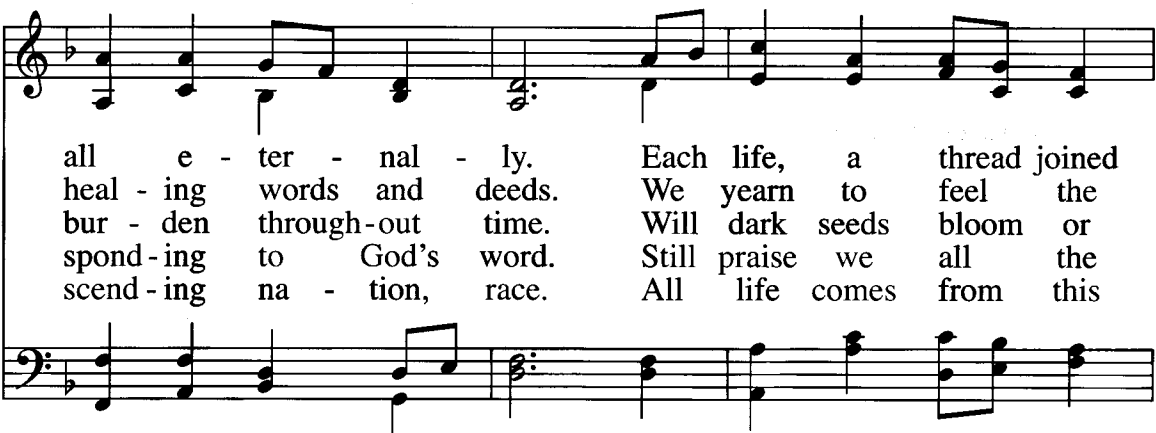
Estribillo



1. God binds us with a might - y cord, We sel - dom  
 2. In try - ing times, God's stead - fast light Shines on a  
 3. The face of e - vil we per - ceive In des - p'rate  
 4. As fol - low - ers of count - less ways, Yet chil - dren  
 5. For God main - tains no bor - der lines, To lim - it

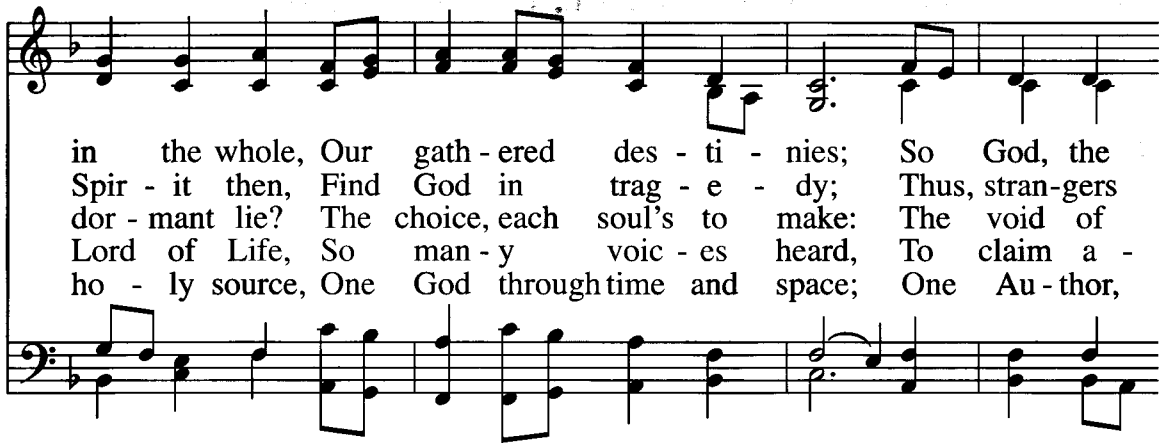


feel or see; This tie, with our cre - at - ing Lord, Links  
 world in need, And leads all peo - ple to u - nite, With  
 deeds and crimes, Lies deep in all hu - man - i - ty: Our  
 of one Lord, Di - verse com - mand - ments we o - bey, Re -  
 each one's place, But cher - ish - es a grand de - sign, Tran -



all e - ter - nal - ly. Each life, a thread joined  
 heal - ing words and deeds. We yearn to feel the  
 bur - den through - out time. Will dark seeds bloom or  
 spond - ing to God's word. Still praise we all the  
 scend - ing na - tion, race. All life comes from this

# GOD'S REVELATION



in the whole, Our gath - ered des - ti - nies; So God, the  
Spir - it then, Find God in trag - e - dy; Thus, stran - gers  
dor - mant lie? The choice, each soul's to make: The void of  
Lord of Life, So man - y voic - es heard, To claim a -  
ho - ly source, One God through time and space; One Au - thor,



Weav - er, knits our souls In one great tap - es - try.  
trans - form in - to friends, In ho - ly u - ni - ty.  
night, or mer - cy's light, Where pa - tient - ly God waits.  
gain this frag - ile tie That u - ni - fies our world.  
who a - lone brings forth Lives drawn in lines of grace.

By Your Holy Spirit, O God, You bind us together as one body, and empower us to carry on the ministry that You enfleshed as Christ. In our differences, and in our moments when we wander away from one another, unite us anew. Give us fresh eyes to see the ways in which You have connected us, rather than the ways we have separated ourselves. We pray also for opportunities to strengthen the bonds between us. Send us out, but send us together, to exercise our ministry, following the directives You give us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.